

The figures would show that the Government were getting an appreciable amount from the export duty on timber. Considering all the circumstances detailed above, the Member strongly advocated the urgent necessity of reviving the export duty on timber alike in the interests of Government and of the people.

Since the Tile industry was new in the State and since it was desirable to encourage such local industries, the Member said that he would not press the levy of an export duty on tiles.

The Member said that the export duty on fuel was abolished with effect from 1st Meenom 1087. In 1085 and 1086, a sum of Rs. 10,227 and Rs. 11,255 respectively had been realised in the shape of export duty on fuel. The abolition of the export duty had led to the export of an appreciable quantity of fuel and charcoal. From 1082 to 1090, the average value of the fuel and charcoal exported from the State was Rs. 98,455 per year. The revival of the export duty on fuel and charcoal would, in the Member's opinion, fetch a revenue of at least Rs. 20,000 per year. There was sufficient demand for fuel within the State itself, namely for the use of the Railway, several factories, etc. There was a cry everywhere for want of sufficient fuel. The Member, therefore, suggested that export duty should be re-imposed on fuel and charcoal also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

27. Development of trade by the expansion of means of communication.

Mr. K. Kesavan Nair (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) said that the Government had not afforded sufficient facilities for trade to the people of Muvattupuzha, as in the case of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey and other places, that paddy, coconut, tapioca, arecanuts, etc., were produced in abundance in the taluk and that, for want of sufficient means of communication such as good roads, they did not find their way out of the taluk. Excepting the natural means of communication and the one public road that passed through the taluk, there were no other roads in the taluk and, in spite of the repeated prayers of the people, the Government had not done much for the people in that direction. The Main Central Road and the two or three small roads to the east and west of it afforded communication only to a few places. The produce in the interior parts of the taluk had to be carried 10 and 15 miles before they could be taken to the road. There was a road from Thrippunithura to Muvattupuzha through which goods from Cochin found their way to the taluk. That, however, was not useful for the purpose of taking goods to the interior parts of the taluk. To improve the commercial enterprise of the people, it was necessary that communication should be established between Muvattupuzha and Alleppey and that, for that purpose, a road should be opened connecting Muvattupuzha and Vaikam.

The Member, therefore, prayed—

(1) that the road from the 130th mile leading to the 6th milestone on the Kutlathukulam—Piravom road, 7 miles in length, be improved, that a bridge be constructed across the canal between the 2nd and 3rd miles, that two or three culverts be also provided on that road, and that the whole extent of 7 miles be made cartable;

(2) that the following roads be made cartable:—

(a) The 6 ft. trace, 13 miles in length, from the 118th mile leading to Piravom through Thalayolaparambu market.

(b) The 6 ft. trace from the 114th mile to the Piravom market, 7 miles in length.

(c) The village road from Vazhakulam to Kothamangalam, running through the Varappatti and Enanallur *pakuthies*.

(d) The village road branching from the 2nd mile on the Muvattupuzha—Kothamangalam road and leading to the Kaliyar Estate.

(e) The village road from Muvattupuzha^{petta} leading to the Palakuzha road through Arakuzha.

The Member said that all the above roads would facilitate trade in the taluk and that at least the first two roads might be improved at once and the rest taken up as early as possible in the near future.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

III. PROTECTION.

(1) LEGISLATION.

28. Reform of the Legislative Council.

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara taluk) said that, though it was thirty years since the Legislative Council was first established, it had not undergone any material change either in its constitution or its usefulness, scope of work or election of non-official members, except for the increase in the number of members to fifteen and the election of four non-official members by the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly from the four older Revenue Divisions. The jurisdiction of the Council, however, had been narrowed by the restrictions referred to in the proviso to section 12.

The Council was not, therefore, of much use for the political education or training of the people. In the British Indian Councils, the principle of election had been recognised and all the Councils there had been reformed so as to afford facilities for associating the people in the work not only of occasional legislation but also of actual everyday administration. Discussion of the Budget and the asking of questions were also allowed to those Councils, the official majority being done away with in the Provincial Councils. Similar concessions were given to the Mysore Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly of Bikanir, which were started comparatively recently.

Regarding the work of the Travancore Legislative Council, the Member said that it was very much limited. Instances of original legislation attempted by the Council were very few, the two foremost being the Nair Regulation and the Christian Succession Regulation. The Council, therefore, stood in urgent need of reform so as to give it greater scope for work and better representation to satisfy the growing political consciousness of the people. Public opinion also strongly supported the above view. There was a united cry all through the country for the enlargement and reform of the Council.

The Member pointed out that the condition of the people made it imperative that they should be more closely associated in the administration of the country, and that the Education Boards, the Town Improvement Committees, the Legislative Council, the Panchayat Courts and even the Popular Assembly had been instrumental in making the people take more interest in the government of their country. Higher education was also making headway in Travancore and the educational advancement of the people required that they should be better treated and given greater powers, rights and privileges. The increase in the number of newspapers, the greater interest the people took in public matters, the power of organisation shown by them in local public associations and the capacity with which they managed such associations, the training received by public men in the Popular Assembly and the good sense, moderation and the feeling of responsibility of the Members as testified to by the presiding Dewans, and the standard of efficiency of the Members of the Legislative Council, all pointed to the fitness of the people to receive greater powers in the Legislative Council. The Member, therefore, suggested that the Legislative Councils Regulation should be amended so that provision might be made therein for the following reforms:—

(1) The number of Members should be increased to 21. The Heads of the several Departments should be Members and such non-official interests as Commerce and Industry, Municipalities, Jenmies, Kudiyans, etc., should also be represented.